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Former top aide to Jill Biden is subpoenaed by House Oversight panel

By **MATT BROWN** and **MICHELLE L. PRICE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans on the House Oversight Committee issued a subpoena Thursday to Anthony Bernal, a senior aide to former first lady Jill Biden, as part of their rapidly expanding investigation into former President Joe Biden's mental fitness while in office.

The subpoena signed by Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the Republican Oversight chairman, requires Bernal to appear for a deposition on July 16. It came after several weeks of back-and-forth with Bernal's lawyer over the timing of a voluntary interview.

"Given your close connection with both former President Biden and former First Lady Jill Biden, the Committee sought to understand if you contributed to an effort to hide former President Biden's fitness to serve from the American people," the subpoena reads. "To avoid



First lady Jill Biden talks with senior adviser Anthony Bernal before her speech at the Carondelet Palace in Quito, Ecuador, May 19, 2022.

Associated Press

any further delays, your appearance before the Committee is now compelled." Bernal is the second former Biden staffer to be subpoenaed by the committee and unlikely to be the last.

The committee this week heard voluntary testimony from Neera Tanden, a former director of Biden's domestic policy counsel, and is intent on securing interviews with several other

members of Biden's inner circle as part of its investigation. Bernal did not respond Thursday to a message seeking comment. Comer has also subpoenaed

Kevin O'Connor, who served as Biden's physician at the White House. O'Connor will testify before the committee on July 9. It's all part of a remarkable Republican effort, supported by President Donald Trump, to investigate the last occupant of the Oval Office six months after he left office. Trump himself has ordered White House lawyers and the Justice Department to investigate Biden, questioning the legitimacy of his use of the autopen to sign pardons and other documents. Boosting the GOP investigation, Trump has waived executive privilege for eight former Biden administration officials to testify to Congress, including Bernal, according to a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and insisted on anonymity. With the privilege lifted, former staffers are free to discuss their interactions with Biden while he was president. □

Trump administration expands military's role at the border to the southern tip of Texas

By **MORGAN LEE**
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The

Department of Defense is expanding a militarized zone along the southern

U.S. border where troops are authorized to detain people who enter for possible federal prosecution on charges of trespassing in a national defense area. The Air Force on Monday announced the annexation of a serpentine 250-mile (400-kilometer) stretch of the border in Texas amid a buildup of military forces under President Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the border. The newly designated national defense area along the Rio Grande spans two Texas counties and runs alongside cities, includ-

ing Brownsville and McAllen. It will be treated as an extension of Joint Base San Antonio. The Air Force said it's prepared to install warning signs immediately against entry to the area. The military strategy was pioneered in April along a 170-mile (275-kilometer) stretch of the border in New Mexico and expanded to a swath of western Texas in May. Hunters, hikers and humanitarian aid groups fear that they will no longer have access. In the newest national defense area, military re-

sponsibilities include "enhanced detection and monitoring" and "temporarily detaining trespassers until they are transferred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities," the Air Force said in a news release. At least three people have been directly detained by troops in New Mexico for processing by Border Patrol. More than 1,400 immigrants have been charged with incursions into the national defense areas, a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to 18 months in prison. □



A military vehicle surveys the southern U.S. border on a bluff above Sunland Park, N.M., on April, 22, 2025.

Associated Press

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Trump officials give their first classified briefing to Congress on the Iran strikes

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and
MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Trump administration officials briefed lawmakers on Thursday about President Donald Trump's decision to bomb three Iranian nuclear sites as questions swirled about the effectiveness of the attack and what's ahead for America's military involvement in the Middle East.

CIA Director John Ratcliffe, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were expected to give the classified briefing to senators, originally scheduled for Tuesday.

Republicans leaving the briefing said it was clear Iran's nuclear program had been significantly set back, while some Democrats expressed skepticism about the extent of the damage. "Without any classified information whatsoever, I think it's safe to say that we have struck a major blow, alongside our friends in Israel, against Iran's nuclear program," said Sen. Tom Cotton, R-AR.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-CT, emerged from the briefing saying that "there's still significant remaining capability."

The session came as senators weighed their support for a resolution affirming that Trump should seek authorization from Congress before launching more military action against Iran. A vote on that resolution could come as soon as Thursday.

Democrats, and some Republicans, have said the White House overstepped its authority when it failed



This image released by the White House and digitally altered to diffuse papers by the source for national security reasons, shows CIA Director John Ratcliffe, in foreground seated, as Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, left, speaks with national security adviser Andy Baker with White House counsel David Warrington seated in background in the Situation Room, Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the White House in Washington.

to seek the advice of Congress.

They also want to know more about the intelligence that Trump relied on when he authorized the attacks.

"Senators deserve full transparency, and the administration has a legal obligation to inform Congress precisely about what is happening," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York. Schumer said Tuesday that it was "outrageous" that the Senate and House briefings were postponed. A similar briefing for House members was pushed to Friday.

A preliminary U.S. intelligence report found that Iran's nuclear program had been set back only a few months, contradicting statements from Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about

the status of Iran's nuclear facilities, according to two people familiar with the report. They were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"You want to call it destroyed, you want to call it obliterated choose your word. This was an historically successful attack," Hegseth said at a Pentagon briefing Thursday.

On Wednesday, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and Ratcliffe sent out statements backing Trump's claims that the facilities were "completely and fully obliterated."

Gabbard posted on social media that "new intelligence confirms what @PO-TUS has stated numerous times: Iran's nuclear facilities have been destroyed." She said that if the Iranians choose to rebuild the three

facilities, it would "likely take years to do."

Gabbard was scheduled to attend the Tuesday briefing but was not expected to attend Thursday's session with senators.

Ratcliffe said in a statement from the CIA that Iran's nuclear program has been "severely damaged." He cited new intelligence "from a historically reliable and accurate source/method that several key Iranian nuclear facilities were destroyed and would have to be rebuilt over the course of years."

Most Republicans have defended Trump and hailed the tentative ceasefire he brokered in the Israel-Iran war. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., went as far as to question the constitutionality of the War Powers Act, which is intended to give Congress a say in military action.

"The bottom line is the commander in chief is the president, the military reports to the president, and the person empowered to act on the nation's behalf is the president," Johnson told reporters.

But some Republicans, including some of Trump's staunchest supporters, are uncomfortable with the strikes and the potential for U.S. involvement in an extended Middle East conflict.

"I think the speaker needs to review the Constitution," said Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. "And I think there's a lot of evidence that our Founding Fathers did not want presidents to unilaterally go to war."

Paul would not say whether he would vote for the resolution by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., that would require congressional approval for specific military action in Iran. A simple majority in the Senate is needed to pass the resolution and Republicans hold a 53-47 advantage.

"I will have Republican votes, plural," Kaine said. "But whether it's two or 10, I don't know."

Kaine authored a similar resolution in 2020 aimed at limiting Trump's authority to launch military operations against Iran. At the time, eight Republicans joined Democrats in approving the resolution.

"I think I have a chance to get some votes from people who are glad that President Trump did this over the weekend, but they're saying, 'Ok, but now if we're really going to go to war, it should only have to go through the Congress,'" Kaine told The Associated Press before the briefing. □

Federal lawsuit adds to allegations of child sexual abuse in Maryland youth detention centers

By LEA SKENE

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A federal lawsuit could open a new chapter in an escalating legal battle in Maryland, where officials are struggling to address an unexpected onslaught of claims alleging child sexual abuse in state-run juvenile detention facilities.

With thousands of similar claims already pending in state court, the litigation has raised questions about how Maryland will handle the potential financial liability.

The new federal suit, filed Wednesday on behalf of three plaintiffs, seeks \$300 million in damages — an amount that far exceeds caps imposed on claims filed in state court. It alleges Maryland juvenile justice leaders knew about a culture of abuse inside youth detention facilities and failed to address it, violating the plaintiffs' civil rights. A message seeking comment was left Thursday with the state's Department of Juvenile Services. The de-



Nalisha Gibbs, center top, speaks during a press conference among other survivors of sexual abuse in Maryland juvenile detention centers, on March 19, 2025, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

partment generally doesn't comment on pending litigation. The Maryland Office of the Attorney General declined to comment. An estimated 11,000 plaintiffs have sued in state court, according to the attorneys involved. Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson said Wednesday that

he believes negotiations for a potential settlement are ongoing between attorneys for the plaintiffs and the attorney general's office. Officials have said the state is facing a potential liability between \$3 billion and \$4 billion. Lawsuits started pouring in after a state law passed in 2023

eliminated the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse claims in Maryland. The change came in the immediate aftermath of a scathing investigative report that revealed widespread abuse within the Archdiocese of Baltimore. It prompted the archdiocese to file for bankruptcy

to protect its assets.

But Maryland leaders didn't anticipate they'd be facing similar budgetary concerns because of claims against the state's juvenile justice system.

Facing a potentially enormous payout, lawmakers recently passed an amendment to limit future liabilities.

The new law reduces caps on settlements from \$890,000 to \$400,000 for cases filed after May 31 against state institutions, and from \$1.5 million to \$700,000 for private institutions. It allows each claimant to receive only one payment, instead of being able to collect for each act of abuse. Suing in federal court allows plaintiffs to sidestep those limits.

"Despite Maryland's recent unconstitutional legislative efforts to insulate itself from liability for the horrific sexual brutalization of children in its custody, Maryland cannot run from liability under Federal law," plaintiffs' attorney Corey Stern said in a statement. □

Native leaders blast construction of Florida's 'Alligator Alcatraz' on land they call sacred

By KATE PAYNE

Associated Press/Report for America

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration is racing ahead with construction of a makeshift immigration detention facility at an airstrip in the Everglades over the opposition of Native American leaders who consider the area their sacred ancestral homelands.

A string of portable generators and dump trucks loaded with fill dirt streamed into the site on Thursday, according to activist Jessica Namath, who witnessed the activity. The state is plowing ahead with building a compound of heavy-duty tents, trailers and other temporary buildings at the county-owned airfield

located in the Big Cypress National Preserve, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) west of downtown Miami.

A spokesperson for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, which is helping lead the project, did not respond to requests

for comment.

State officials have characterized the site as an ideal place to hold migrants, saying there's "not much" there other than pythons and alligators.

Indigenous leaders who can trace their roots to



In this image from undated video released by the Office of Attorney General James Uthmeier shows an isolated Everglades airfield about 45 miles (72 kms.) west of Miami that Florida officials said an immigration detention facility dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" is just days away from being operational.

Associated Press

the area back thousands of years dispute that and they're condemning the state's plans to build what's been dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" on their homelands. For generations, the sweeping wetlands of what is now South Florida have been home to Native peoples who today make up the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, as well as the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

"Rather than Miccosukee homelands being an uninhabited wasteland for alligators and pythons, as some have suggested, the Big Cypress is the Tribe's traditional homelands. The landscape has protected the Miccosukee and Seminole people for generations," Miccosukee

Chairman Talbert Cypress wrote in a statement on social media. There are 15 remaining traditional Miccosukee and Seminole villages in Big Cypress, as well as ceremonial and burial grounds and other gathering sites, Cypress testified before Congress in 2024.

"We live here. Our ancestors fought and died here. They are buried here," he said. "The Big Cypress is part of us, and we are a part of it." Critics have condemned the facility and what they call the state's apparent reliance on alligators as a security measure as a cruel spectacle, while DeSantis and other state officials have defended it as part of Florida's muscular efforts to carry out President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. □

Kennedy says U.S. is pulling funding from global vaccine group Gavi

By MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says the country is pulling its support from the vaccines alliance Gavi, saying the organization has “ignored the science” and “lost the public trust.”

A video of Kennedy’s short speech was shown to a Gavi meeting in Brussels on Wednesday, where the organization that has paid for more than 1 billion children to be vaccinated through routine immunization programs was hoping to raise at least \$9 billion for the next five years.

Kennedy, a longtime vaccine skeptic, mentioned Gavi’s partnership with the World Health Organization during COVID-19, accusing them of silencing “dissenting views” and “legitimate questions” about vaccine safety. His speech also cast doubt on the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine which WHO and other health agencies have long deemed to be safe and effective.

Gavi said in a statement Thursday that its “utmost concern is the health and safety of children,” adding that any decision it makes on vaccines to buy



Robert F. Kennedy Jr., speaks before Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump at a campaign event Nov. 1, 2024, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

is done in accordance with recommendations issued by WHO’s expert vaccine group.

Some doctors in the United States criticized the decision. Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, said it was “incredibly dangerous” and warned that defunding immunization would put millions of children at risk.

Gavi is a public-private

partnership including WHO, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation and the World Bank, and it is estimated that the vaccination programs have saved 18 million lives. The United States has long been one of its biggest supporters; before President Donald Trump’s re-election, the country had pledged \$1 billion through 2030.

In just under four minutes, Kennedy called on Gavi “to justify the \$8 billion

America has provided in funding since 2001,” saying officials must “consider the best science available, even when that science contradicts established paradigms.” Kennedy said until that happens, the U.S. won’t contribute further to Gavi. The health secretary zeroed in on the COVID-19 vaccine, which WHO, Gavi and other health authorities have recommended for pregnant women, say-

ing they are at higher risk of severe disease. Kennedy called that a “questionable” recommendation; his U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently stopped recommending it.

He also criticized Gavi for funding of a rollout a vaccine to prevent diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis in poorer countries, saying he’d seen research that concluded that young girls who got the vaccine were more likely to die from all other causes than children who weren’t immunized.

Gavi said scientists had reviewed all available data, including any studies that raised concerns, and that the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine has “played a key role in helping halve childhood mortality.” Some observational studies have shown that vaccinated girls do have a higher death rate compared to unvaccinated children, but there is no evidence the deaths are caused by the vaccine. But Offit said the studies cited by Kennedy were not convincing and that research examining links between vaccinations and deaths did not prove a causal connection. □

Death toll from Kenya’s anti-government protests rises to 16

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The number of Kenyans who died during Wednesday’s nationwide protests

over police brutality and bad governance has doubled to 16, according to the state-funded human rights commission.

Property was also de-

stroyed in the protests that attracted thousands of frustrated young Kenyans. At least two police stations were razed down by angry protesters.

Kenyans demonstrated Wednesday in 23 of 47 counties across the country calling for an end to police brutality and better governance. Thousands chanted anti-government slogans, and the protests morphed to calls for President William Ruto to resign. Many protesters were enraged by the recent death of a blogger in custody and the shooting of a civilian during protests over the blogger’s death.

The country’s interior minister Kipchumba Murkomen

on Thursday assessed damage to businesses in the capital, Nairobi, where goods were stolen from multiple stores. He said police would follow up with owners whose CCTV cameras captured the looters to ensure swift arrests.

At least two families have identified their deceased kin at the Nairobi mortuary. One relative, Fatma Opango, told local media that her 17-year-old nephew was gunned down in Rongai area in the outskirts of Nairobi.

“I came across his photo in a group online and I started searching for him at the hospitals hoping he had survived,” she told journalists at the mortuary.

Minister Murkomen on Thursday defended the conduct of police officers during the protests, saying the “government has your back.”

“There is no police officer who committed any excess yesterday, they foiled a coup and they deserve our defense,” Murkomen said, adding that police “don’t carry guns as toys.” In downtown Nairobi, businesspeople counted their losses after looters raided their shops and set some shops on fire.

In one of the buildings where smoke was still billowing on Thursday morning, a phone seller told journalists that she lost stock worth 800,000 Kenya



Police surround a demonstrator protesting on the one-year anniversary of deadly anti-tax demonstrations in Nairobi, Kenya, Wednesday, June 25, 20125.

Associated Press

Mexico's president slams sanctions on Mexican banks by Trump administration

By **MEGAN JANETSKY**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum responded sharply Thursday to U.S. government sanctions to block transfers from three Mexican financial institutions, saying Washington hasn't shown evidence of its allegations of money laundering.

The U.S. Treasury Department announced the sanctions Wednesday on the banks CIBanco and Intercam Banco and the brokerage Vector Casa de Bolsa, alleging that they had facilitated millions of dollars in money transfers for Mexican drug cartels.

Sheinbaum said during her morning news briefing Thursday that the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump had showed no evidence proving that the institutions carried out any money laundering, despite repeated requests for such evidence.

"The Treasury Department hasn't provided a single piece of evidence to show that any money laundering was taking place," she said.

"We aren't going to cover for anyone, there isn't im-



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum attends her morning press conference at the National Palace in Mexico City, April 2, 2025.

punity here. They have to be able to demonstrate that there was actually money laundering, not with words, but with strong evidence."

The accused banks also fired back on the orders, rejecting the allegations and similarly citing a lack of evidence.

Brokerage firm Vector said Wednesday night in a statement that it "categorically rejects any allegation

that compromises its institutional integrity" while Intercam said in a statement it denies being involved in any "illegal practice." Vector is owned by entrepreneur Alfonso Romo, who served as chief of staff to ex-President Andrés Manuel López Obrador early in his presidency.

Manuel Somoza, president of strategies of CIBanco, told local press that they only heard about the order

the same time it was made public, and claimed that it wasn't a formal legal accusation, but rather an investigation.

"Our books are open," he said. "Rumors are clearly damaging, whether they're true or not. So, what we want is for (American authorities) to come and investigate."

The Treasury Department has said the order will go into effect in 21 days. The

law officials cited states that they can take such actions without publicly presenting clear evidence if there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that the institutions were involved in the money laundering connected to trafficking.

Sheinbaum said they were notified by American officials of the accusations ahead of the Wednesday announcement, and that Mexican financial regulators carried out their own investigations into the institutions.

They found "administrative infractions," she said, but nothing close to the accusations being levied by Treasury officials.

In the orders blocking transactions between the three institutions and American banks, the Trump administration alleged that the three companies facilitated millions of dollars in transfers with Chinese companies, which it said were used to buy chemicals to produce fentanyl. The Treasury Department said the institutions had facilitated transfers to U.S. banks, but officials would not name which U.S. institutions were implicated nor provide more details. □

Ecuador recaptures gang leader wanted in the United States more than a year after his prison escape

By **GONZALO SOLANO and GABRIELA MOLINA**

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A fugitive drug trafficker wanted by authorities in Ecuador and the United States was recaptured more than a year after he escaped from prison in the Andean nation, Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa announced Wednesday.

José Adolfo Macías, alias "Fito," who led a gang called "Los Choneros" in Ecuador and has been indicted in New York City on charges he imported thousands of pounds of cocaine into the United States, was captured in the Ecuadorian city of Manta, his hometown, officials in

Ecuador said.

Interpol had issued an arrest warrant for Macías after his mysterious prison es-

cape in early 2024 from the Guayaquil Regional Prison, where he was serving a 34-year sentence for drug

trafficking. Ecuadorian authorities have yet to explain how he escaped. They only learned of his escape when a military contingent arrived to transfer him to another maximum-security prison but didn't find him in his cell.

The Ecuadorian army confirmed Macías' recapture in what appeared to be the basement of a house. A video provided by the army showed the moment of the arrest, with a uniformed officer aiming a gun at the head of the drug trafficker, who gave his full name. The officers had found him hiding in a small hole beneath what appeared to be a kitchen counter.

Wednesday's announcement of his arrest comes in the same week that Federico Gómez, alias "Fede," the leader of another gang called Las Águilas, was confirmed to have escaped from an Ecuadorian prison.

Last year, U.S. Attorney John Durham said in a news release that Macías led Los Choneros and its "network of assassins and drug and weapon traffickers" since at least 2020.

With an extensive criminal record including charges of murder and organized crime, Macías has cultivated a cult status among fellow gang members and the public in his home country. □



Escorted by soldiers and police officers, Adolfo "Fito" Macías, the leader of the Choneros gang, arrives in Guayaquil, Ecuador, after getting detained, Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

Associated Press



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A guide for the perfect picture

Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA".

A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!



Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! ☐



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Dorado", a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand

each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a



large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female.

Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. ☐

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

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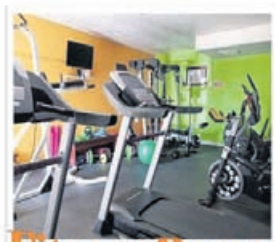
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Cas di Torto

ORANJESTAD ☐ **Cas di torto** (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The

few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguaná Peninsula in the 18th century. Existing

houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and para grass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white colour and helps to protect against the weather. On top of the poles pieces of



wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung. The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen

would be a wooden or metal barrel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. ☐



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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Efraim Pena Sanchez from Maracaibo, Venezuela.



He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is a all colors match..."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.



Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commis-

sioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, every-

one could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks

and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. ☐

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin



(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez

placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills

were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However,

er, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Goes downhill

1 Card collection

5 Burglar's crime

10 Verdi pieces

12 TV sound

13 Skater Harding

14 Nursery resident

15 Summer in Paris

16 Tick off

18 Pot fill

19 "Cold as ice," e.g.

21 Thatcher, for one

22 Kitchen containers

24 Composer Bruckner

25 Capone's cohorts

29 Steamed

30 Capital north of Syracuse

32 Lobbying org.

33 Low digit

34 Big shot

35 Tony or Oscar

37 Monsoon weather

39 In shape

40 Burn a bit

DOWN

1 Sees

2 Steamy

3 Film

4 Band-leader

5 Carpet

6 "What was that?"

7 Book

8 1040 users

9 The present

11 Regatta activity

17 Uses for support

20 Foolish

21 Precept

23 Walks unsteadily

25 Leave base,

26 Secret

27 Deep chasm

28 Play-ground

29 Minor

31 Church areas

33 Casino

36 Sun-burned

38 Target

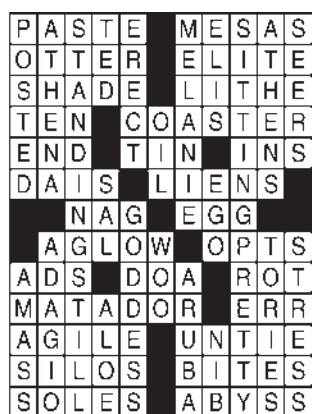
AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-1 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

Y IYLL SGH KVXL TGHM XWJ
QWJAK BJLG LWIHWMH YMSW
TVSHU TYSGWJS GVOYMF SW T
WUUX VCVJS SGHYU QHAABGW
MH. — VMWMXIWL

Cryptoquote: IF I HAD MY WAY,
I'D REMOVE JANUARY FROM THE
CALENDAR ALTOGETHER AND HAVE AN
EXTRA JULY INSTEAD. — ROALD DAHL



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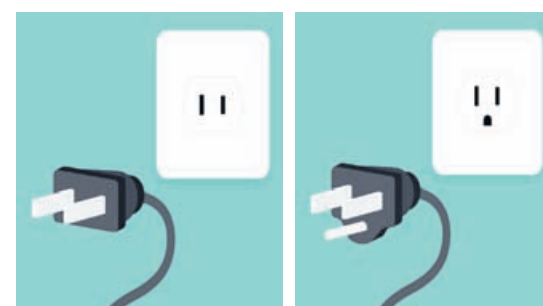
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	08	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	09	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	15	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	16	OASIS OF THE SEAS	11.00	23.00	I	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	C	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



More refunds are being sent to Fortnite players 'tricked' into unwanted purchases. How you can apply



Video game players compete in an esports tournament at Caesars casino in Atlantic City, N.J. on March 31, 2017.

Associated Press

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**

AP Business Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is sending out the latest round of refunds to consumers it says were "tricked" into purchases they didn't want from Fortnite maker Epic Games and eligible players who haven't been compensated yet still have time to apply. In an announcement this week, the FTC said it was distributing more than 969,000 refunds totaling over \$126 million to consumers on Wednesday and Thursday. That follows the regulator's first round of payments amounting to more than \$72 million, which went out in December 2024.

The refunds are part of a \$520 million settlement that Epic agreed to pay back

in 2022 to address complaints revolving around children's privacy and payment methods on its popular Fortnite video game. At the time, the FTC had alleged that the gaming giant used deceptive online design tactics to trick Fortnite players, including children, into making unintended purchases "based on the press of a single button." Consumers could be charged while doing something as simple as attempting the wake the game from sleep mode, for example, or by pressing a nearby button when trying to preview an item, the agency said. The FTC also accused Epic of blocking some users who disputed the charges from accessing the content they purchased. Beyond a \$275 million fine related to collecting personal infor-

mation for players under the age of 13, the settlement, which was finalized in 2023, included \$245 million in customer refunds. Between December's payments and the refunds sent out this week, about \$198 million of that has been sent out leaving roughly \$47 million left to be distributed.

The latest refunds are being doled out to consumers who filed a valid claim before Feb. 14 meaning that any claims filed after that date are still under review, according to the FTC.

And the FTC also says it's reopening the claims process. Eligible consumers who have not been compensated yet now have until July 9 to file a claim. If accepted, the refunds come in the form of checks or PayPal payments. To apply and learn more about the settlement, impacted consumers should visit the FTC's website. People who are eligible for these pay-

outs include Fortnite players who were charged in-game currency for items they didn't want or saw their account locked after complaining to a credit card company about wrongful charges between January 2017 and September 2022 as well as parents whose kids made charges on their credit cards without their knowledge from January 2018 through November 2018. □



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Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
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'M3GAN 2.0' goes big, maybe too big, to 'Mission: Impossible'-level existential crisis

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer

If you want to know how big an upgrade the "M3GAN" sequel has on the original, look no further than the very first scene. "M3GAN" was mostly set in a Seattle house, but "M3GAN 2.0" starts at the Turkish-Iranian border with a murderous rampage in a secret military installation and the presence of Saudi intelligence, with U.S. Defense Department officials covertly watching.

Two hours later, it's not clear if this is really an upgrade.

Most of the same team that gave us the refreshing horror-comedy original two years ago have not only gone super-big, but also changed the franchise's genre, turning "M3GAN 2.0" into an action movie with two AI robots, two villains, FBI units, wingsuits, neural implants, a "Mission: Impossible"-style vault heist, exosuits, a 250-mph street chase in a supercar, a power grid disaster, a countdown clock, the United Nations and the fate of the planet at stake.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows M3GAN in a scene from "M3GAN 2.0." Associated Press

If the evil doll M3gan in the first movie was responsible for the deaths of four humans and one dog, this time the screen is littered with the corpses of shootings, decapitations, severed limbs and laser slayings. There are double-crosses, impalings, blood splatter, cattle prods, tactical military soldiers, self-

destruct sequences and insane close-combat martial arts. You can be forgiven for expecting a Tom Cruise appearance.

What you won't get is much of the vibe of the original, which fused horror, cultural commentary and humor. This time, that's muted in favor of an overly ambitious, horribly convoluted

plot that sometimes feels like the moviemakers just threw money at the sequel and tried to ape other franchises by going massive. The first had a bedroom feel; the new one starts, like we said, on an international border. The original's \$12 million budget has been tripled. "M3GAN 2.0" owes a lot to "Terminator 2: Judg-

ment Day," in which the robot killer in the first movie becomes the robot hero of the second. M3gan, it will come as no surprise, wasn't killed at the end of the original. She's just been laying low, waiting for her time to seize the day and dance. Now she is reborn to fight another, better AI robot, played with sinister lethality by Ivanna Sakhno.

"M3GAN" arrived in 2023 just as AI technology like ChatGPT was beginning to go mainstream. Director and screenwriter Gerard Johnstone turns Allison Williams who plays M3gan's creator, Gemma into a high-profile author and advocate for government oversight of artificial intelligence as the sequel opens. One of the more intriguing questions the movie explores is if parents are gradually outsourcing their responsibilities to technology. Her niece Cady the fabulous Violet McGraw is now a budding computer programmer and rebellious. She has learned aikido and has a strong affinity for Steven Seagal, a running gag. □

Denis Villeneuve to direct next James Bond film

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Denis Villeneuve is going from "Dune" to Bond.

Amazon MGM Studios announced Wednesday that Villeneuve will direct the next James Bond movie. The untitled film will be the first since the studio took creative reins of the storied film franchise after decades of control by the Broccoli family.

Producers Amy Pascal and David Heyman had maintained that before the next Bond is cast, they would develop a screenplay and find a director first. Now, they have one of the most respected blockbuster makers in Hollywood, who's coming off a pair of widely acclaimed "Dune" films. In a statement, the 57-year-

old French Canadian filmmaker said he grew up watching Bond movies.

"I'm a die-hard Bond fan. To me, he's sacred territory," said Villeneuve. "I intend to honor the tradition and open the path for many new missions to come. This is a massive responsibility, but also, incredibly exciting for me and a huge honor."

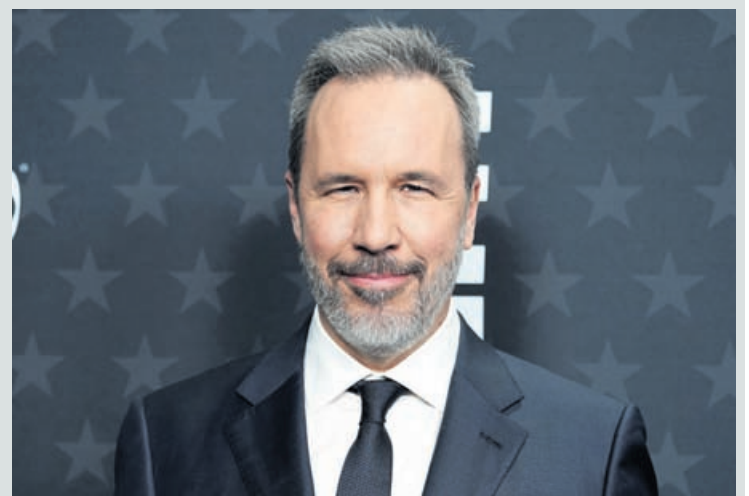
Since taking creative control of Bond in February, Amazon MGM has worked quickly to get the next movie going. The studio is also trying to win over fans skeptical of the new corporate leadership and the fearful of future spinoffs.

"James Bond is in the hands of one of today's greatest filmmakers," said Mike Hopkins, head of Prime Video and Amazon

MGM Studios.

With Pascal and Heyman lodged as producers and Villeneuve behind the camera, the next Bond movie will have an enviable brain trust. Villeneuve beat out a field of directors floated for the movie including Edward Berger ("Conclave"), Paul King ("Paddington 2"), Edgar Wright ("Baby Driver") and Jonathan Nolan, co-creator of "Westworld" and brother to Christopher Nolan. "Denis Villeneuve has been in love with James Bond movies since he was a little boy," said Pascal and Heyman. "It was always his dream to make this movie, and now it's ours, too."

No release date has been announced for the next Bond movie. Villeneuve will



Denis Villeneuve arrives at the 30th Critics Choice Awards on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

shoot the third "Dune" film this summer. If production on Bond began next year, a release sometime in 2027 would be likely.

Villeneuve's first two "Dune" films have together surpassed \$1 billion in box office worldwide and been nominated for a combined 15 Academy Awards, winning seven. His other films

include "Blade Runner 2049," "Arrival," "Sicario," "Prisoners," "Enemy" and "Incendies."

Amazon bought MGM Studios in 2022 for \$8.5 billion, but didn't gain creative control of the studio's most prized asset until this year. Until this film, every Bond director has been hand-picked by the Broccolis. □



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Journey man: Mets pitcher Jonathan Pintaro takes improbable path to majors

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Some players take unusual paths to the big leagues. And then there is the journey of Jonathan Pintaro.

Undrafted from a Division II college in Georgia, he spent two seasons in the MLB Draft League for overlooked long shots. Then two years pitching for the Glacier Range Riders of the independent Pioneer League where he compiled a 6.60 ERA.

So when Pintaro walked into the New York Mets' clubhouse Wednesday, about 2,400 miles from 2,291-seat Glacier Bank Park in Kalispell, Montana, needless to say it was an improbable arrival.

"Pretty cool story, right? I think this is an organizational win, when you're talking about a kid that was pitching independent ball last year," Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. "Credit



New York Mets Jonathan Pintaro pitches during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in New York.

to him. Obviously, it's not easy what he did."

Pintaro received a surprise promotion when the struggling Mets shuffled bullpen arms again before Wednesday night's 7-3 vic-

tory against Atlanta.

Left-handers José Castillo and Richard Lovelady were designated for assignment. Pintaro was selected to the major league roster, and lefty Brandon Waddell was

recalled from Triple-A Syracuse.

The 27-year-old Pintaro made his major league debut when he entered to start the ninth inning. He walked his first batter and

gave up a single before getting a groundout and a strikeout.

A two-run single by 2023 NL MVP Ronald Acuña Jr. and a walk to Matt Olson chased Pintaro, who was pulled for closer Edwin Díaz. "It was amazing. I couldn't be more excited to be here and just grateful for the opportunity that I got today," Pintaro said. "It was definitely a lot of nerves, and faced some good hitters out there.

I think what I was not able to do was just command the zone and I think that's what I've got to work on now."

After the game, Pintaro was given the souvenir ball from his first strikeout, which came against Braves shortstop Nick Allen.

Pintaro was born in Pelham, Alabama, and pitched for five seasons from 2017-22 at Shorter University, a small, private Baptist school in Georgia. □

Associated Press

Faith Kipyegon falls short in attempt to break 4-minute mile

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

PARIS (AP) — Three-time Olympic champion Faith Kipyegon has failed in her bid to become the first woman to run a mile in under four minutes.

Kipyegon, the Olympic 1,500-meter gold medalist from Kenya, ran in 4 minutes, 06.42 seconds at Stade Charléty in Paris on Thursday.

Her time was better than her world record of 4:07.64 but won't be recognized by the international federation because the Nike-sponsored event dubbed "Breaking4: Faith Kipyegon vs. the 4-Minute Mile." was unofficial.

The 31-year-old Kipyegon

looked exhausted as she reached the finish and fell on her back as she was surrounded by photographers.

Her attempt took place on a balmy summer's evening with a temperature of 25°C and limited wind, in front of an audience of a few thousand people.

She used a team of 13 elite pace setters made of 11 men and two women who were positioned in front and behind her to reduce drag.

But Kipyegon appeared to struggle midway through the race and failed in her attempt to shave at least 7.65 seconds off her world record. To achieve the

feat, Kipyegon would have needed to run each of her four laps an average of about two seconds faster. Among the guests in Paris were Carl Lewis and Kipyegon's fellow Kenyan runner, longtime friend and training partner Eliud Kipchoge.

It was more than 71 years ago when British runner Roger Bannister became the first man to eclipse four minutes in 3:59.4.

Kipyegon set the women's mile world record nearly two years ago during a Diamond League meet in Monaco.

She won her third straight 1,500 Olympic title in Paris last August. A month be-

fore that, she broke her own 1,500 record on the same track where she ran on Thursday. □



Faith Kipyegon, from Kenya, runs surrounded by her pacers in an attempt to become the first woman to run a mile in under four minutes, at Stade Charléty in Paris, Thursday, June 26, 2025.

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Wimbledon 2025: Coco Gauff and Carlos Alcaraz give tennis two young superstars

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Coco Gauff and Carlos Alcaraz are helping usher in a new era for tennis.

With Wimbledon beginning Monday, the sport's most recent Grand Slam champions are Gauff, a 21-year-old American, and Alcaraz, a 22-year-old Spaniard, who are both at No. 2 in the rankings and are both coming off French Open titles secured in riveting finals against the sport's No. 1 players.

They are young, they are charismatic as an be on the court and they are media-friendly off it.

Gauff-Sabalenka, Alcaraz-Sinner give tennis rivalries as Wimbledon arrives

Along with No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and former No. 1 Iga Swiatek in the women's game, and No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the men's, Gauff

and Alcaraz offer a bright future for a sport's fanbase that in recent years saw all-

time greats Serena Williams, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal walk away and cur-

rently might be pondering how much longer Novak Djokovic will contend for

the biggest prizes.

"Tennis is just in such a great, great place right now. We are so fortunate to have not only Coco, not only Carlos, but a deep bench of young stars that are just propelling the growth of our sport," U.S. Open tournament director Stacey Allaster said. "I've been around a long time, and when we have lost great, iconic champions in the past, there's generally been a little bit of a dip. We have had the exact opposite during this transition. ... I always like to say the champions of today are standing on the shoulders of the champions of the past. These champions have jumped off the shoulders of the past champions." One key for a sport, especially an individual one, to gain attention and grow popularity is to have rivalries that demand buy-in. □



Coco Gauff during a practice session at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, ahead of the Wimbledon Championships, England, Tuesday June 24, 2025.

Associated Press